

2001 Open Enrollment for 2002

Special Addendum

The medical plan you pick during open enrollment is the plan you have through 2002. It's the plan you have even if the plan's network providers change -- and they do change! That's because medical plans negotiate their own agreements with network providers, constantly adding new ones and dropping others, and providers unilaterally terminate agreements (they can terminate without cause if they give 120 days notice). Consequently, when it comes to picking medical plans based on network providers, there just aren't any guarantees.

With that said, here are a couple of network provider updates:

- KingCare/Aetna is currently renegotiating its network provider agreement with Swedish Medical Delivery Systems (Swedish Hospital-First Hill, Swedish Hospital-Ballard, Providence Hospital and related clinics). Unfortunately, it won't be known whether Swedish will be an Aetna network provider beyond Jan. 31, 2002 (when the current agreement ends) until sometime after open enrollment.
- PacifiCare has just signed a new agreement with Swedish. Assuming Swedish does not exercise its option to unilaterally terminate the agreement, it should be a network provider through 2002.

(Keep in mind, even if Swedish does not reach a new agreement with KingCare/Aetna, or terminates its agreement with PacifiCare, if you're in the KingCare/Aetna Basic, KingCare/Aetna Preferred or PacifiCare Choice medical plan, you may still receive services from Swedish providers at non-network levels. See your enrollment guide.)

For more information about provider networks, talk to your current providers or contact the plans. Phone numbers and Web site addresses are listed in the Resource Directory in your enrollment guide.